

**JOE WHITE**  
Real Estate Broker  
P. O. Box 728  
Healdsburg, CA. 95448

**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

May 16, 2003

Regarding relaxing Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Honorable Mr. or Ms. Honorable Adelstein, Abernathy, Powell, Copps  
and Martin.

I am apposed to this.

Sincerely yours,

  
JOE WHITE

Phone: (707) 431-2151  
FAX: (707) 433-1236

Car: (707) 483-5427  
or (707) 695-5427

WEB SITE <http://www.joewhite.net>  
E MAIL [joewhite@sonic.net](mailto:joewhite@sonic.net)



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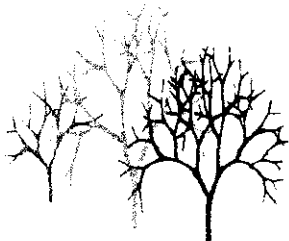
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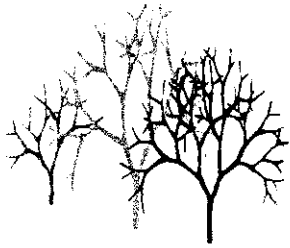
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JUN 03 2003

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

Distribution Center

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

---

*Paula A. Kullis*

*HC3 Box 512K*

*Payson, Arizona 85541*

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Sincerely,

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Chrisella B. McDermott  
P.O. Box 7671  
Boise, Idaho  
83707



THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

May 22, 2003

**Confirmed**

JUN 03 2003

**Distribution Center**

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

In my dual role as a voter and as Communications Director for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, I have become increasingly concerned about the erosion of local news and public affairs programming caused by the weakening of broadcast ownership limits. Now there is yet another proposal that will serve to further weaken the less-than-desirable limits that are presently in place.

Media outlets (tv, radio and newspapers) are the essential sources of information about issues facing all citizens in a democracy. If these outlets are owned by only a handful of companies, the viewpoints expressed will be narrowed, and some issues and points of view will be lost entirely.

My understanding is that the commission intends to issue its decision on these changes on Monday, June 2, 2003. There have been little or no news reports on this impending decision. In my mind, that is an example of control of news that could be continued if the corporate media owners are given the go-ahead to go beyond the current ownership limits.

If nothing else, please delay making the decision and allow those of us who are voters, viewers, listeners and readers to learn more about the impact of further deregulation. It is the free flow of information that strengthens a democracy. Control of information by a few can only serve to weaken it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Vydra".

Marilyn Vydra, Director  
Communications Services

cc: U.S. Representative Roy Blunt  
U.S. Senator Christopher Bond  
U.S. Senator Jim Talent

**Anne N. Philiben**

**2285 NE Meadow Lane Bend, OR 97701-3975**

(541) 318-5713 [annephiliben@bendcable.com](mailto:annephiliben@bendcable.com) <http://www.36thevac.com/>

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May 22, 2003

Michael Powell Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Confirmed**

**JUN 03 2003**

Dear Mr. Powell;

**Distribution Center**

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your position on the elimination of rules that protect against media monopoly and corporate consolidation. Your stated reasons for doing so are specious.

MANY PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES DO NOT OWN COMPUTERS MUCH LESS KNOW HOW TO USE THEM TO GAIN ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

MANY POOR PEOPLE IN THE US CANNOT AFFORD CABLE TV, WHEN THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR MEDICATIONS TO KEEP THEM ALIVE.

THERE ARE STILL MANY AREAS IN THE US WHERE CABLE IS NOT AVAILABLE.

There are areas in the state of Oregon that have no Telephone service much less computer and cable access.

I find your attitude on this subject to be elitist and arrogant. You were selected to Chair the FCC to serve the people of the U.S. not the media giants.

The revelation that you and the staff of the FCC *"have been flown to hundreds of conferences, conventions and broadcast-industry events in Las Vegas (330 trips), New Orleans (173 trips), New York (102 trips), London (98 trips), as well as San Francisco, Miami, Anchorage, Palm Springs, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Hong Kong, Beijing and Paris. Often, according to the study, the FCC aides merely attend events as observers – but they do so in style, spending the night in elite accommodations such as the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas and at the resorts of Amelia Island, Florida, and Hilton Head, South Carolina."* (Center for Public Integrity Study) is obvious evidence that you have no interests in the need of common people to have access to a number of different sources for information. (The Online Beat, The Nation)

People need a variety of sources of information. I do not want to live in a country where Rupert Murdoch controls the media.

Sincerely,



Anne N. Philiben

cc: Senators: Ron Wyden, Gordon Smith  
Representative Greg Walden  
Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, Adelstein



Nancy Blackwood  
32901 S 630 Road  
Jay, Oklahoma 74346  
May 16, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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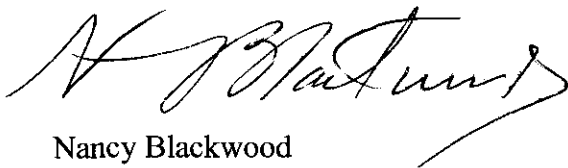
Dear Commissioner Copps:

This is to let you know that, as an American citizen, I am greatly concerned about the consolidation of media in the hands of a few giant companies. I consider this to be a limitation upon the free access to information that is so vital to the operation of our democracy.

It is my understanding that the FCC was founded in 1934 to regulate the nation's broadcasters so that they served the public interest. What has happened to this principle? Surely it is as necessary today as at the time that it was first established, if not more so. Can you set aside the present and future well being of our country for the economic gain of a few giant corporations?

I am astonished by the FCC's push for consolidation in the media industry. I feel that the public has not had sufficient information about this situation so that our viewpoints in this matter might be given consideration. In my opinion, media consolidation has already gone too far. This monopoly of information in the hands of a few is dangerous, and it needs to be dismantled – for the good of our country.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Blackwood

# KAREN MAGOON

150 S. KESWICK AVENUE, GLENSIDE, PA 19038

---

May 22, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Confirmed**  
**JUN 03 2003**  
**Distribution Center**

RE: Media Ownership Proceeding 02-277

Dear Commissioner Powell,

I write to you to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the FCC's Biennial Review of broadcast media ownership rules. These rules limit the concentration of media ownership and inhibit the erosion of diverse ownership within the media marketplace. In promoting the FCC's supposed goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question.

The right to conduct an informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. If the FCC allows media outlets to merge and consolidate further, the public's ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. Therefore, I am extremely concerned that increased concentration of media ownership will negatively impact access to diverse viewpoints and will impede the functioning of our democracy.

In addition the stultifying impact of media ownership consolidation on informed debate, I am concerned that the programming needs of children have not been adequately considered. Both the FCC and Congress have repeatedly affirmed the unique position of children's programming in the economic market, and there is evidence to indicate that the economics of an increasingly consolidated media marketplace already may be affecting children's programming content. The current state of the broadcasting industry raises serious questions about the ways in which further relaxation of the FCC's media ownership rules may adversely affect the service that some broadcasters provide to the nation's children. Prior to any amendment of the rules that would affect media ownership the implications of media consolidation of the children's media market and the affect of consolidation on the diversity of programming available for young viewers need to be examined.

I am rightfully troubled by the FCC unwillingness to seek input from important stakeholder groups and at its unwillingness to fund national hearings, which suggests a lack an understanding the public's interest in these matters. I strongly urge the Commission to preserve the public interest by keeping the current media ownership rules intact until the impact of proposed changes have been thoroughly examined and addressed.

Sincerely,



Karen Magoon

Cc: Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein

Honorable Senator John McCain,  
Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee

Honorable Senator Arlen Specter  
Honorable Senator Rick Santorum

Honorable Congressman Chaka Fatah

Nancy Blackwood  
32901 S 630 Road  
Jay, Oklahoma 74346  
May 16, 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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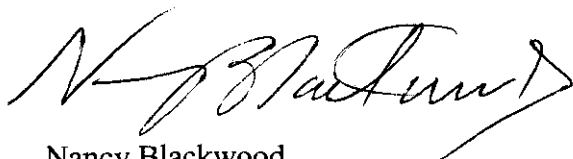
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It is my understanding that the FCC was founded in 1934 to regulate the nation's broadcasters so that they served the public interest. What has happened to this principle? Surely it is as necessary today as at the time that it was first established, if not more so. Can you set aside the present and future well being of our country for the economic gain of a few giant corporations?

I am astonished by the FCC's push for consolidation in the media industry. I feel that the public has not had sufficient information about this situation so that our viewpoints in this matter might be given consideration. In my opinion, media consolidation has already gone too far. This monopoly of information in the hands of a few is dangerous, and it needs to be dismantled -- for the good of our country.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Blackwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Blackwood

# Willis H. Meadows Insurance

9 Queensbury Drive ♦ Greenville, SC 29617 ♦ (864) 235-6850, Fax (864) 235-7029

May 19, 2003

The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Confirmed**

**JUN 03 2003**


**Distribution Center**

Dear Mr. Copps:

Please do not change the rules to give existing media companies the right to acquire more stations and create monopolies in their viewing or listening area. Thus, creating an opportunity to stifle opposing viewpoints and as well as increasing advertising rates because there are no alternatives.

The FCC has protected us in the past by limiting a concentration of ownership. I urge you to continue with these limitations.

Sincerely,



Willis H. Meadows

**Confirmed**

JUN 03 2003

**Distribution Center**

May 19, 2003  
6719 E. Malcomb Dr.  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253  
480-922-9766

Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington D.C. 20554  
by U.S. Mail

re: newspaper-broadcast cross ownership rules

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

I oppose deregulation of newspaper-broadcast cross ownership rules because it would decrease competition and decrease freedom of the press.

Enclosed is an Arizona Republic May 18 article on local musician Joe Bethancourt. When I moved to Arizona in 1964, Bethancourt played in lots of local clubs. Now, 38 years later, he can't get local jobs because of "local radio." He explains:

"Any city with a thriving music scene has a radio station that plays local music. Here you have to be on a national rotation, and if you are not, you don't get airplay. If you can't get airplay, its harder to be heard."

In other words, because there isn't any local radio (thanks to the FCC and Congress), there isn't any local music anymore. All we get is corporate monkeyjunk served up by the oligopolies you empower.

It is preposterous to claim there is an effective increase of news sources due to increased competition amongst media types. Consider this: A man staggers home from work at 6 P.M., gulps down supper, fixes the faucet, pays bills, returns phone calls, says hi to his family, wishes he had time to exercise, and then stumbles into bed around 10. He watches TV news for a few minutes and then slips into dreamland. Is it realistic for this guy to surf the internet for alternative news, or comparison shop between network and cable news? This guy doesn't even have time to read the daily paper, but for a few headlines, sports and maybe a comic. Do you claim this man spends his precious few free minutes shopping news?

You are decreasing freedom of information. You are creating anti-free market rules. You are removing access to information from the average citizen. You are further injuring the democracy.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Shoen

cc: John McCain

## SPOTLIGHT

## + Joe Bethancourt grew with his music

By Curtis Grippe  
Special for The Republic

At the age that most children are learning their first words, Joe Bethancourt was learning his first songs. When most of us were taking our first steps, Bethancourt was learning to play his first musical instrument. By the time most kids are getting their first bike, Bethancourt got his first banjo. And at age 18, Bethancourt became a professional musician, the only job he has ever had.

Bethancourt, 56, plays 65 instruments, including the banjo, guitar, mandolin and bagpipes, and plays from a list of more than 1,000 songs from many genres, including country, folk, Celtic, bluegrass and medieval/renaissance. His specialty, however is the music of the southern Appalachian and Ozark mountains, where he spent time as a youth.

In addition to writing, recording and performing music, Bethancourt also gives lessons and produces recordings for other artists.

He will appear Thursday at the West Valley Art Museum in Surprise for a one-hour presentation.

As a child, Bethancourt moved around frequently because his father was in the military. While living in North Carolina, he became more aware of the music he heard around the house.

"My mom was a ragtime pianist, so I heard a lot of that," he said. "But the majority of the music I heard was Appalachian music. Everybody played, family members, neighbors, friends. There were just songs that everybody knew."

Many of the songs were handed down over time, and it's unknown who wrote them.

"We have some records of collections that date back to the early 1800s," Bethancourt said. "There are about five songs that go back to the 1300s."

As Bethancourt's musical interest was growing, his family began making yearly visits to Arizona to see his grandfather.

"My grandfather was a fiddler," he said. "Every year I would go back and learn as much music as I could while we were there."

In 1961, the Bethancourts moved to Arizona, and Joe, then a junior at North High School, continued to expand his musical world through his grandfather.

"I began to spend more and more time with the old boy," he said. "He not only taught me about Appalachian music, but he started showing me other types of mu-



T.L. Story

Joe Bethancourt can play more than 1,000 songs on 65 instruments.

sic, like mariachi, which I took to right away."

Bethancourt began playing guitar and playing with musicians of all genres around the Phoenix area. Being a self-taught musician came in handy.

"When you don't have any musical baggage, things are a lot easier," he said. "Mariachi rhythms, for instance, are strange. A classically trained musician might have a harder time than someone who wasn't trained in one specific area."

The different styles of music he was learning also led to his continued need to explore new forms of instrumentation.

"Most of the instruments I play are strangled, and many of them are related in some way," he said. "It's like a foreign language. Once you learn the language of the instrument, you can play it and anything like it."

Bethancourt became a regular on the Phoenix music scene and worked as a studio musician in Los Angeles, where he

## Joe Bethancourt

Favorite movie: *Princess Bride*

Favorite book: *Fancies and Goodnights*, by John Collier

Favorite musical artist: Doc Watson

Favorite city to visit: Seattle

made his first record in 1969. *The Joe Bethancourt String Concert Album* was reviewed in *Billboard* magazine (Feb. 28, 1970) and given a four-star rating.

In the late '70s and early '80s, Bethancourt made weekly appearances on the *Wallace and Ladmo* show.

"I would just come out and say, 'Here's a weird musical instrument. Let's hear what it sounds like.' It was really fun working with those guys."

Over the past two decades, Bethancourt has continued to entertain and educate audiences even though the current music scene is not as fertile as it once was.

"In order to make a living, a performing musician has to do it by playing out of town," he said. "There are a few guys around town who make a living without having to leave, but only a couple of those guys are doing anything original."

Bethancourt said that numerous problems could be addressed in terms of reviving the local music scene but that it all starts with radio.

"Any city with a thriving music scene has a radio station that plays local music," he said. "Here you have to be on a national rotation, and if you are not, you don't get airplay. If you can't get airplay, it's harder to be heard."

Despite the state of local music in Arizona, Bethancourt stays busy playing, teaching and producing.

Bethancourt has appeared at the West Valley Art Museum before but has no agenda for his upcoming presentation.

"It's going to be whatever I feel like when I leave the house," he said. "I know that I'll have probably three banjos and some kind of guitar. I'll play between five and nine different instruments."

He appears at 7 p.m. Thursday at the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Residents of Surprise and West Valley Art Museum members will be admitted free. Information: (623) 972-0635.

More information on Joe Bethancourt is available on his Web site, along with music, photos and upcoming performances, at [www.whitetreeaz.com](http://www.whitetreeaz.com).

**Confirmed**  
**JUN 03 2003**  
**Distribution Center**

BethAnne Nelson  
2000 Jerrold Ave.  
Arden Hills, MN 55112

May 19, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, 20554

Re: Make Your Voice Heard on Media Diversity Before It's Too Late!

Commissioner Abernathy:

I am writing to remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

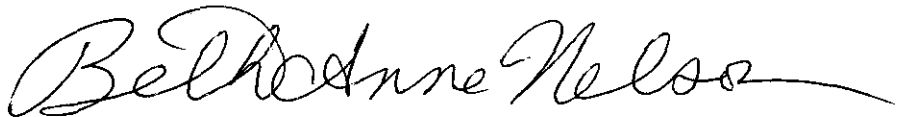
The free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace will virtually disappear.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "BethAnne Nelson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BethAnne Nelson



May 19, 2003  
6719 E. Malcomb Dr.  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253  
480-922-9766

Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington D.C. 20554  
by U.S. Mail

**Confirmed**

**JUN 03 2003**

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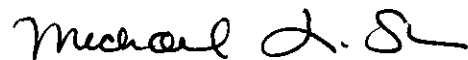
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"In order to make a living, a performing musician has to do it by playing out of town," he said. "There are a few guys around town who make a living without having to leave, but only a couple of those guys are doing anything original."

Bethancourt said that numerous problems could be addressed in terms of reviving the local music scene but that it all starts with radio.

"Any city with a thriving music scene has a radio station that plays local music," he said. "Here you have to be on a national rotation, and if you are not, you don't get airplay. If you can't get airplay, it's harder to be heard."

Despite the state of local music in Arizona, Bethancourt stays busy playing, teaching and producing.

Bethancourt has appeared at the West Valley Art Museum before but has no agenda for his upcoming presentation.

"It's going to be whatever I feel like when I leave the house," he said. "I know that I'll have probably three banjos and some kind of guitar. I'll play between five and nine different instruments."

He appears at 7 p.m. Thursday at the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Residents of Surprise and West Valley Art Museum members will be admitted free. Information: (623) 972-0635.

More information on Joe Bethancourt is available on his Web site, along with music, photos and upcoming performances, at [www.whitetreeaz.com](http://www.whitetreeaz.com).

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center

359 S. Garden St.  
Maitland, NC 28752  
May 17, 2003

Chairman, Michael E. Roselle  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

445 13th St NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Roselle:

Since only five conferees already own 90% of the TV media, I strongly urge you to vote against changing the ground rules to give more power and control to only a few media owners, we need more, not less, diverse voices and choices to maintain our a balance of freedom of the press.

I implore you to vote against any rule change which would make only a few conferees to control the American media, remember the viewers belong to the American people and please, please vote accordingly - against rule changes!

Sincerely yours,

M. E. Roselle

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center

LETTERING REVIEW  
JUN 3 2003  
MICHAEL K. POWELL  
The Honourable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC  
20554

May 9, 2003

Dear Mr. Powell,

I would like to ask you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules. We do not want Media Monopolies to be feeding us just what they think we need to hear-their side of a story that is very biased. We don't want one company only let those it agrees with to buy time. We want to be able to have our viewpoints on the air even if it doesn't agree with Viacom/CBS or Disney/ABC. Please do not allow media monopolies.

I appreciate your time.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Nathan Varner

mdjdnvarner@juno.com

Please don't relax the rules!

Say NO to Media Monopolies!

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

359 S. Garden St.  
Marion, NC 28752  
May 17, 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Martin:

Since only five companies already own 90% of the TV Media, I strongly urge you to vote against changing the present Rules to give more power and control to only a few media owners. We need more, not less, diversification and choices to maintain even a semblance of freedom of the press.

I implore you to vote against any rule change which would enable only a few companies to control the American media. Remember the airways belong to the American people and please, please vote accordingly — against rule changes.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. A. L. Caplan, Jr.

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center

359 S. Garden St.  
Marion, NC 28752  
May 17, 2003

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

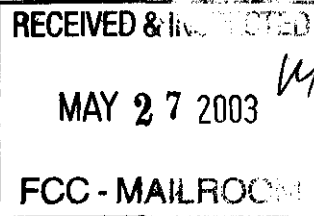
Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

Since only five companies already own 90% of the TV media, I strongly urge you to vote against changing the present rules to give more power and control to only a few media owners. We need more, not less, diversification and choices to maintain even a semblance of freedom of the press.

I implore you to vote against any rule change which would enable only a few companies to control the American media. Remember the airways belong to the American people and please, please vote accordingly — against rule changes.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. H. L. Caplan, Jr.



MAY 19, 2003

DEAR COMMISSIONER MARTIN,

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

PLEASE DO NOT RELAY THE  
BROADCAST RULES THAT HELP  
KEEP US FREE FROM MEDIA  
MONOPOLIES.

WE NEED MULTIPLE POINTS OF  
VIEW IN OUR NEWS.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Garland  
Berger

Garland Berger  
816 NW 104th Loop  
Vancouver, WA 98685-5243

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

MAY 19, 2003

DEAR CHAIRMAN POWELL,

PLEASE DO NOT RELAX THE  
BROADCAST RULES THAT KEEP  
US FREE FROM MEDIA MONOPOLIES,

WE NEED MULTIPLE POINTS OF  
VIEW IN OUR NEWS.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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Berger

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816 NW 104th Loop  
Vancouver, WA 98685-5243



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MAY 19, 2003

DEAR COMMISSIONER COPPS,

PLEASE DO NOT RELAX THE  
BROADCAST RULES THAT HELP  
KEEP US FREE FROM MEDIA  
MONOPOLIES.

WE NEED MULTIPLE POINTS OF  
VIEW IN OUR NEWS.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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Vancouver, WA 98685-5243

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JUN 03 2003

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5.19.03

DEAR COMMISSIONER OBERNOLTY,

PLEASE DO NOT RELAX THE  
BROADCAST RULES THAT KEEP  
US FREE FROM MEDIA MONOPOLIES,

WE NEED MULTIPLE POINTS OF  
VIEW IN OUR NEWS.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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